

ANNUAL  
**HEALTH REPORT**  
OF THE  
Hebburn Urban Sanitary District

**1925.**

BY  
E. E. NORMAN, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT HEBBURN FEVER HOSPITAL.

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Hebburn-on-Tyne :

Printed by SMITH BROS. (Hebburn & Jarrow), Ltd.  
Lyon Street.

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# HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Chairman.

Robert Ferguson, J.P.

## Vice-Chairman.

Joseph Donnelly.

## MEMBERS.

### West Ward.

Ald. Bernard Kelly, J.P.  
Joseph Donnelly.  
Alexander Iley.

### East Ward.

Fenwick Bell.  
James McCourt.  
Robert Adair.

### Central Ward.

Duncan Taggart.  
Edward Hudson.  
John G. Straffen.

### Victoria Ward.

Thomas W. Barrett.  
Alexander Clayton, J.P.  
Robert Keenlyside.

### North Ward.

Norman Cann.  
Mrs. Nora Taylor.  
Mrs. Mary Ann Peterkin.

### South Ward.

Samuel Oake.  
Robert Ferguson.  
Matthew Davison.

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Clerk ..... Thomas Stuart.  
Surveyor ..... Henry Paterson.  
Accountant ..... Joseph Browell.  
Medical Officer of Health..... Dr. E. E. Norman.  
Sanitary Inspector ..... Robert McKellar.  
Cleansing Superintendent ..... William Nutt.  
Matron of Fever Hospital..... Miss L. Aitken Blain.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebburn Urban  
District Council.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my Fifteenth Annual Report, which, by direction of the Minister of Health, is more comprehensive than has been customary in recent years and contains an account of the sanitary condition and progress of the district for the last five years.

Anyone who takes the trouble to read the Report will, I think, come to the conclusion that the Council have progressed with boldness and have deserved well of the ratepayers and of the inhabitants generally.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. E. NORMAN.



# ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

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## STAFF.

Staff of the Health Department consists of :—

- (1) Medical Officer of Health. (Part time).
  - (2) Sanitary Inspector. (Whole time).
  - (3) Two Health Visitors appointed by and paid by the Durham County Council but acting under the administrative control of the Local Medical Officer.
  - (4) One Clerk. (Part time).
- 

The Urban district of Hebburn is situated in the North-East corner of the County of Durham, being bounded on the East by the Borough of Jarrow, and on the South by the Rural district of South Shields and on the North and West by the River Tyne.

The district is almost wholly industrial and contains many large and important works. Among these may be enumerated a Coal Mine, three Shipyards, three Chemical Factories, Engineering Works, Metal Foundries, and others. Some parts of the district may be described as rural, and there are three Farms.

## PART I.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

The population of Hebburn is estimated by the Registrar General at 25,980 at the middle of the year 1925 and is supposed to have increased by 1,320 during the last five years.

**Births.**

The total number of Births was 685, 378 being males and 307 females, and of these 6 males and 10 females were illegitimate. The Birth-rate was 26.5 per 1,000.

**Deaths.**

The number of Deaths registered was 370, and of these 208 were males and 162 females.

The Death-rate for the District was 10.8.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
No. of Births .....	861	722	800	784	685
Birth Rate .....	34.9	30.8	31.4	30.5	26.5
No. of Deaths .....	373	329	373	345	370
Death Rate .....	15.1	13.1	14.6	13.4	10.8

**Infant Mortality.**

Of 685 babies born, 80 died before reaching the age of 1 year, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 116 per 1,000 births.

This figure compares unfavourably with the corresponding figure for last year; but if the series of years be taken, it will be seen that the progress of improvement has on the whole been fairly steady and continuous.

The Infant Mortality rate may be taken as the best index of the sanitary condition of the district and we may hope that the recent sanitary improvements carried out and the additional houses already built or contemplated, will help to reduce this rate to a more agreeable level.

As a factor in lessening Infant Mortality, too much praise cannot be given to the work of the Health Visitors and to the pro-



vision in necessitous cases of milk of high quality and unquestioned purity at a low cost or free of all cost.

Year.	No. of Births.	No. of Infant Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 births.
1914	784	87	110
1915	749	82	109
1916	736	77	104
1917	700	85	121
1918	751	99	131
1919	744	98	131
1920	888	107	120
1921	861	93	107
1922	772	72	93
1923	800	88	110
1924	784	63	73
1925	865	80	116

### Zymotic Death Rate.

The number of deaths from Infectious Diseases was 49, the chief cause being Measles :—

Disease.	Deaths.				Death-Rate.			
	1922.	1923	1924	1925.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Measles ...	...	24	1	31	...	0·94	0·04	1·23
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	1	2	...	0·04	0·04	0·07
Whooping Cough ...	3	21	1	16	0·11	0·82	0·04	0·61
Diphtheria ...	3	3	...	1	0·11	0·11	...	0·03
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	1	0·03	...	...	0·03
Diarrhœa ... (under 2 years)	14	12	14	8	0·55	0·47	0·54	0·31
Totals ...	21	61	17	49	0·80	2·38	0·66	2·28

**Comparison with other Areas.**

	Birth-Rate	Death-Rate	Infantile Death-Rate
England and Wales ... ..	18·3	12·2	75
London and 105 Towns of more than 50,000 ... ..	18·8	12·2	79
157 smaller Towns of 20,000—50,000 ... ..	18·3	11·2	74
London ... ..	18·0	11·7	67
Hebburn ... ..	26·5	10·8	116

**Whooping Cough.**

A fairly extensive outbreak of Whooping Cough has to be recorded which appeared in June and attained its maximum intensity in November. The disease caused 16 deaths, all in young children, and of course associated with Bronchial Pneumonia and in a few cases complicated in addition by Measles. 9 of the deaths were males and 7 females.

**Diphtheria.**

Of 43 cases notified of Diphtheria, 20 were found to be bacteriologically positive and only one case proved fatal.

Success in dealing with Diphtheria is to be found in the early application of remedial measures, results of early treatment in this disease being unusually and strikingly successful.

**Influenza.**

Influenza in epidemic form was not met with during the year, only occasional sporadic cases occurring and 5 deaths were attributed to the disease, 2 being males and 3 females. Probably some proportion of the deaths caused by Respiratory diseases were really in the first case Influenza.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Two deaths from Scarlet Fever out of 76 cases notified show that the disease, though prevalent as usual, was not as a rule of a particularly severe type.

### **Infantile Diarrhoea.**

Only 8 deaths from Diarrhoea were registered. This comparatively small number was probably the result of a number of different causes, but may be accepted as an indication that the sanitary condition of the district is not unsatisfactory.

### **Respiratory Diseases.**

The diseases mentioned above are with Influenza in this district the most prolific of all causes of death and last year 74 were ascribed to them.

### **Tuberculosis.**

29 deaths from Consumption were registered, 13 being males and 16 females. From other Tuberculous diseases there were 14 deaths, 10 being males and 4 females.

### **Suicides.**

Two persons committed suicide, both males and both of advanced age.

### **Encephalitis.**

Encephalitis Lethargica, or sleepy sickness, was responsible for two deaths, both males, one aged 19 years and the other 11 years.

Two deaths out of 5 cases notified is a high proportion and suggests a possibility that more cases occurred than were recognised

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Males.	Females.
All Causes—Civilians only.		208	162
1	Enteric Fever ... ..	1	...
2	Small-pox ... ..	...	...
3	Measles ... ..	17	14
4	Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	2
5	Whooping-Cough ... ..	9	7
6	Diphtheria .. ...	...	1
7	Influenza ... ..	2	3
8	Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	2	...
9	Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	13	16
11	Other Tuberculous diseases ... ..	10	4
12	Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	9	19
13	Rheumatic Fever ... ..	1	...
14	Diabetes ... ..	2	1
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ... ..	11	9
16	Heart disease ... ..	15	10
17	Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	1	4
18	Bronchitis ... ..	9	9
19	Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	29	20
20	Other respiratory diseases ... ..	7	0
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	1
22	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	6	2
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	1	1
24	Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	...
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	3	2
26	Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	2
27	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	...	1
28	Congenital debility and malforma- tion, premature birth ... ..	13	8
29	Suicide ... ..	2	...
30	Other deaths from violence ... ..	13	2
31	Other defined diseases ... ..	29	23
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	1	1
Special causes (included above )			
Poliomyelitis .....		...	...
Polioencephalitis .....		...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		50	28
Illegitimate .....		1	1
Total Births .....		378	307
Legitimate .....		372	297
Illegitimate .....		6	10
Population for Births and Deaths ....		25980	



## PART II.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The number of notifications received during the year was 444.

Scarlet Fever .....	76
Diphtheria .....	43
Erysipelas .....	17
Pneumonia .....	53
Encephalitis .....	5
Tuberculosis Pulmonary .....	50
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary .....	31
Varicella .....	167
Enteric Fever .....	1
Puerperal Fever .....	1
<hr/>	
Total.....	444

The greatest number of notifications received were in connection with Chicken Pox, which, on account of the incidence of Small Pox in the neighbourhood, remained a notifiable disease throughout the year. Chicken Pox was exceptionally prevalent in the last quarter.

**Small Pox.**

In spite of the fact that Small Pox broke out in various districts up and down Tyneside, as well as in different areas in both the Northern Counties, no case was notified in Hebburn.

**Enteric Fever.**

As was the case in 1924, only one notification of Enteric Fever was received, the patient being a boy aged 17 years who lived in one of the old condemned houses in the East Ward. The attack was one of great severity and the patient succumbed within a few days of being admitted to Hospital. Although he lived in an overcrowded and grossly insanitary house and had been ill for several days before the true nature of the disease was made clear, no further extension took place.



I was in this case unable to discover the source of infection.

For the last five years our district has been surprisingly free from Enteric Fever, especially considering that the conservancy method of refuse disposal has been almost universally followed. Since 1921 only six cases have occurred, of which four were in 1922. Of the six cases notified two proved fatal.

### **Diphtheria.**

43 notifications of Diphtheria were received, of which 20 were positive and the remainder negative. All these 43 patients were taken to Hospital, the negative cases being discharged after a few days and the remainder kept in until cured.

There is no present indication of a lessening in the incidence of Diphtheria; but the mortality rate, owing to the general and especially to the early use of Anti Toxin, can be kept at a low figure. In the early stages it is very often quite impossible to diagnose the condition with confidence, and to wait for the result of the bacteriological test is to lose an amount of time which may be sufficient to bring about the death of the patient. At the first suspicion, therefore, these cases should be at once notified and promptly removed for treatment, or, as an alternative, Anti Toxin can be given at home and the result of the test awaited. The important point is, that the administration of the antidote should never be delayed.

The following table shows the number of notifications and the number of deaths in each of the last five years :—

Date.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
1921 .....	31 .....	3
1922 .....	19 .....	3
1923 .....	22 .....	3
1924 .....	28 .....	—
1925 .....	43 .....	1

### **Scarlet Fever.**

76 notifications were received, the great majority occurring in

the first six months of the year. It seems strange that of all the effort made for the control of Scarlet Fever, and the large amount of expenditure on Hospitals which has been incurred, seems to have produced little or no effect on the prevalence of the disease nor added greatly to our knowledge, either of its causation or treatment. On the whole, the cases are, as a rule, of a mild and benign character, but occasionally a case of more intense type appears and the methods of treatment at our disposal seem to be woefully ineffective. Probably it will be found that the best method of dealing with this disease will be by means of Serum injections of a similar nature to those employed in Diphtheria, and, it may be hoped, with equally satisfactory results.

During the last five years the incidence of Scarlet Fever was as follows :—

Date.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
1921 .....	59 .....	—
1922 .....	35 .....	—
1923 .....	73 .....	1
1924 .....	88 .....	1
1925 .....	76 .....	2

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

It is pleasing to report that no notifications of Ophthalmia were received during the year for practical difficulties in the way of affording efficient treatment are considerable and the result of neglect, which takes the form of incurable blindness, is so tragic. As want of skilled care and attention at birth is one of the many factors in encouraging the disease, it is to be expected that the rapid improvement of the maternity nursing service, which has been in progress during the last few years, may cause the disease to become less and less common.

During the last five years the cases notified have been as follows :—

Date.	No. of Cases.
1921.....	4
1922.....	6
1923.....	4

1924.....	5
1925.....	—

### **Pneumonia.**

The chief cause of death in our district is to be found among Respiratory diseases and of these Pneumonia is the most fatal, whether as an acute primary illness or as a sequel to an Influenzal infection. The disease is infectious and has for some years been compulsorily notifiable. Administrative action to be of use and real value is not an easy matter as the course of the disease is brief and intense and ends in recovery or death before many days are over. There is no Hospital accommodation for these cases, but many receive very valuable attention at the hands of the District Nurse.

It appears to me more than doubtful whether all, or even nearly all, cases of Pneumonia are notified, and I am quite sure that many are inadvertently overlooked.

For the last five years the figures are :—

Date.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
1921 .....	63 .....	38
1922 .....	77 .....	38
1923 .....	49 .....	59
1924 .....	100 .....	36
1925 .....	53 .....	49

### **Encephalitis Lethargica.**

Sleepy sickness or Encephalitis, which in recent years has occupied a great amount of public and professional attention, was responsible for five notifications, and it seems likely, owing to the vague and indefinite nature of the disease in its earlier stages, that this number is short of the truth.

The disease appears definitely to be on the increase and is not only attended by an extremely high mortality rate, but even cases which recover are often left with their mental faculties permanently impaired. The course of the disease is slow, and treatment in Hospital is always to be preferred.

The number of cases notified during the last five years are :—

Date.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
1921 .....	—	—
1922 .....	—	—
1923 .....	—	—
1924 .....	5	1
1925 .....	5	2

### **Tuberculosis.**

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during 1925 was 50 and of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 31. During the same year there were 29 deaths from Pulmonary and 14 from other forms of the disease.

Tuberculosis is said to be declining in frequency, but there is still room, in Hebburn at least, for a considerable acceleration of the rate of decline. The infectious nature of the disease is now universally recognised, but it is still allowed to exist in conditions and under circumstances which in a case of such infectious diseases as Scarlet Fever or Small Pox would at once be regarded as intolerable.

A case of Consumption in an overcrowded, badly ventilated house is every bit as dangerous and as likely to spread the disease as would be the case with either of the other diseases mentioned, and yet such conditions are to be encountered daily and are accepted as natural and right. There is much need for greatly increased Isolation Hospital accommodation for Tuberculous cases of an infectious character. The record for the past five years is shown below :—

Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Deaths.	Date.
54 .....	52 .....	52 .....	1921
44 .....	33 .....	42 .....	1922
37 .....	59 .....	41 .....	1923
52 .....	52 .....	52 .....	1924
50 .....	31 .....	43 .....	1925



**Isolation Hospital.**

The number of patients admitted to Hospital during 1925 was 120, made up as follows :—

Enteric Fever .....	1
Diphtheria .....	43
Scarlet Fever .....	76

There were four deaths during the year : one case of Enteric Fever, as mentioned above, one of Diphtheria, and two of Scarlet Fever.

Within the last few years the condition of the Fever Hospital has been greatly improved by the installation of central heating for the main Hospital block and the roads and pathways have been levelled and dressed with **tar macadam**.

The condition of the antiquated and dilapidated Diphtheria block, however, continues to be a reproach to an up-to-date and progressive sanitary authority. The building as it stands is most unsuitable for its purpose and should be replaced as soon as ever possible.

As I have often previously had occasion to point out, an additional ward for the isolation and observation of obscure cases would be a further very useful addition.



Annual Return of Infectious Diseases for 1925.

Notifiable Disease	At Ages—Years.							Wards.												Total No Notified.	Removed to Hospital.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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## PART III.

**GENERAL SANITATION.****Housing.**

During the year 57 houses were built, all but one being built under the Council's Housing Scheme.

The Council's houses were all of the three-roomed type and are suitable enough for a small family, but very inadequate for a family of large size.

During the last five years considerable progress has been made towards the solution of the overcrowding difficulty and in all 22 houses were built by private enterprise, the remainder (336) by the Council. The houses, if small, are pleasant and their sanitary equipment is entirely satisfactory. As a measure for the relief of overcrowding the Housing Scheme would have been more successful if strict regulations had been introduced and enforced to prevent sub-letting, which is now carried on to a considerable extent and to that extent renders the scheme almost valueless for its purpose.

The following table shows in detail the number of houses built during the last five years both by the Council and by individual builders.

It will be noted that the majority so far constructed are of the five-roomed type, but there has been a pressing demand for smaller houses at lower rentals and at the time of writing the Council is engaged in supplying the want.

**Housing Scheme.**

	5 Rooms.	4 Rooms.	3 Rooms.	Total.	Private.
1920.....	—	—	—	—	2
1921.....	30	10	—	40	—
1922.....	70	66	26	162	1
1923.....	24	44	12	80	6
1924.....	—	—	—	—	13
1925.....	—	—	54	54	—
	124	120	92	336	22

### **Colliery Houses.**

I have previously described the method by which the Council have tried to secure gradual closure of the old Colliery houses, which was, briefly, to take no action until such time as the house was vacated, when arrangements were made to prevent the entry of a fresh tenant. Under this arrangement six closures were effected; but as these houses are rapidly becoming more and more dilapidated, it is quite certain that steps will have to be taken to accelerate the process.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

A complete scheme for the conversion of Ash Closets into Water Closets was carried to a successful conclusion during the year, no less than 3,873 such conversions having been effected.

Practically the whole Town is now served by the Water Carriage system, which is in itself a sufficiently notable sanitary improvement. There remain 24 Open Ashpits and 15 Dry Closets, the former mostly in connection with the condemned houses in the Colliery area, and before long it may be expected that they will disappear.

In the case of the Box Closets, which are mostly attached to more or less isolated bulidings, the transformation will have to be delayed until sewers and drain can be laid and connected.

Domestic and trade refuse is collected weekly during the day-time and the bulk of it is carted to the Council's hopper and so conveyed to sea, the number of loads so dealt with being 13,449. This refuse does not possess the objectionable qualities of night soil and can be used for manure and other purposes without offence, and, as a fact, nearly 5,000 loads were so disposed of during the year.

### **Cleansing Superintendent.**

For many years and up to 1924, the task of attending to the cleansing of the Town and the disposal of refuse was in the hands of the District Surveyor and the Sanitary Inspector, and the



divided control which this arrangement entailed was found on occasion to result in a certain amount of overlapping and consequent confusion. The Council, therefore, decided to place the whole of the work in the hands of a separate official and, consequently, Mr. William Nutt, formerly Assistant Sanitary Inspector, was appointed Cleansing Superintendent.

The new system has hardly yet had time to demonstrate its superiority over the old and cleansing work has, during recent months, been rendered rather more than usually difficult by the upheaval in the back streets due to the installation of the water carriage system.

### **Infant Clinic.**

During the year 510 children attended the Infant Clinic, being of all ages up to five years, but the majority naturally infants. Between them they made 2,950 attendances.

Dried milk was sold to the extent of 6,282 packets, partly of 1lb. and partly of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. At the same time, 8,324 packets were distributed free of charge under the auspices of the Durham County Council. The services rendered by the Infant Clinic are of immense value and very highly appreciated by those whom they are intended to benefit.

### **Milk Supply.**

The milk sold in Hebburn is all imported, often from a considerable distance, and is therefore none too fresh on arrival and not free from suspicion of contamination. The recognised Dairies, six in number, are clean and sanitary and frequently inspected, but many Grocers and General Dealers also sell milk sometimes under less satisfactory conditions. In these cases regular inspection is difficult to carry out and the risk of contamination considerably greater. So much so, that I am personally satisfied that in the absence of breast feeding dried milk of proved quality is safer for infants and generally preferable to the ordinary milk of commerce.

### **Lodging Houses.**

There are two lodging houses, both in the West Ward, with accommodation for 77 males. There is no corresponding Lodging-house accommodation for women.

At the Hostel in the East Ward there is accommodation for 376 lodgers, each possessing a separate cubicle. These houses are kept clean and their sanitary condition is entirely satisfactory.

### **Nursing Association.**

The Nursing Association which was formed some four or five years ago has already thoroughly justified its existence and is carrying on work of the greatest possible value. The Association employs one Nurse, but her efforts are aided as required by the Maternity Nurses working in the district under the guidance of the Durham County Council. Apart from the Fever Hospital there is no general Hospital in the town, but a very excellent Accident Infirmary serves the purpose denoted by its name, and much use is made of the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle, and of other Local Institutions.

### **Water Supply.**

Water is supplied by The Sunderland & South Shields Water Company and is always abundant, hard and drinkable. All new houses are fitted with an individual water supply, but there are some streets in the East Ward where a single tap supplies several houses.

### **Roads and Streets.**

An immense amount of attention has been devoted to the Roads and Streets of Hebburn during the last five years and much money has been expended on improving their condition. First and foremost the main road connecting Pelaw with Jarrow has been reconstructed throughout its extent and is now a very fine example of an up-to-date highway. This work was carried out mainly by the Durham County Council in association with the Local Authority.



New roads constructed during the same period include :—

Waggonman Row,  
Black Road,  
Hedgeley Road,  
St. John's Avenue.  
Alfred Street,  
Whiteburn Street,  
South Drive,

together with all the roads connected with the new housing scheme in Victoria Ward. The reconstructed streets include :—

Prince Consort Road,  
Lyon Street,  
James Street,  
Station Road,  
Argyle Street,  
School Street,  
High Lane Row,  
Harvey Street,  
Buchanan Street,  
Aln Street,

and several back streets and lanes.

This work constitutes a record of which the Council has a right to be proud.

### **Sewers.**

Important work has been done in the construction and reconstruction of the Town sewers, the latter process being rendered necessary by the process of conversion to water carriage which is described elsewhere.

A new sewer for the West area of the district was constructed and enters the River at Pelaw Main Staithes, and a large number of sewers in the back streets were taken up and re-laid. It may be expected with confidence that the Town will for long enjoy the results of the long-sighted and forward policy which has been followed by the Council.

## Report of Sanitary Inspector.

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TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,—

I beg to submit to you my Ninth Annual Report upon the work of the Sanitary Department for the year 1925.

The district has been systematically inspected for the detection of nuisances, resulting in the service of 706 Informal Notices.

All notices were complied with.

A summary of notices which have been served during the year for the abatement of Nuisances will be found on page 31.

The tabulated returns do not, of course, show all the nuisances abated, as many minor nuisances are abated in consequence of personal interviews with the persons responsible.

The supervision of work, such as repairs to and reconstruction of drains, the removal of Fever patients to Hospital, disinfection and inspection of infected houses, and the supervision of the conversion scheme, occasioned a considerable amount of time and labour.

I am, yours truly,

ROBERT McKELLAR,

Sanitary Inspector.

### General Sanitary Work.

During the year 706 Informal Notices for the abatement of nuisances were served.

3,837 Statutory Notices were served by order of the Council; these notices received attention.

In no case was it necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

### Privy Accommodation and Conversion of Ashpits.

The policy of substituting water-closets for ashpit privies, one of the chief sources of food contamination, has now been completed.

Additional protection will thus be afforded to child life, and a possible reduction of Diarrhœa which invariably visits the town during the hot season.

All new houses are provided with water-closets.

The following table shows the number of sanitary conveniences in the District.

		Privy Ash-pits.	Privy Box-closets	Water- closets.	Total.
WEST WARD	...	2	6	565	573
CENTRAL WARD	...	...	...	701	701
NORTH WARD	...	...	...	785	785
EAST WARD	...	12	...	720	732
VICTORIA WARD	...	6	3	931	940
SOUTH WARD	...	4	6	837	847
TOTALS	...	24	15	4539	4578

The following is a list of sanitary conveniences in use in the district as compared with the years :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925
Ashpits .....	41	39	39	37	37	24
Privy Boxes .....	3,879	3,865	3,853	3,824	3,807	15
Water closets .....	323	348	364	685	702	4,539

### **Trade Refuse.**

Trade refuse is collected once every day.  
During the year 699 loads were collected.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

There are six slaughter Houses in the district. These premises are inspected as regularly as is possible, and on the whole they have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

These premises were lime-washed four times during the year. No structural improvements have been effected.

### **Removal and Disposal of Refuse.**

13,449 loads were collected during the year, and disposed of in the following manner :—

Barged to Sea .....	8,500 loads.
Quarries .....	29 ,,
Farm Land .....	4,920 ,,

---

Total..... 13,449 loads.

Ashpits and box-closets were cleansed during the night in the Summer months, and during the day in the Winter months.

This work has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

### **Factory and Workshop Act.**

There are 14 workshops in the district in which the following trades are carried on :—

Milliners .....	3
Dressmakers .....	2
Tailors .....	1
Plumbers .....	1
Bakers .....	2
Joiners .....	4
Laundry .....	1
	<hr/>
	14

Factories and Workshops in the district were regularly inspected.

### **Infectious Disease.**

During the year 444 notifications of Infectious Disease were received from the Medical Officer. In each case the premises were inspected and the sanitary condition recorded and particulars respecting to the history of the case were reported to the Medical Officer.

Patients removed to Hospital .....	120
Houses Inspected.....	163
Houses Disinfected .....	170
Clothing and Bedding Disinfected (lots) .....	170
Visits to Infected Houses .....	326

### **Palmers Hostel.**

These premises provide accommodation for 376 lodgers, and are fitted with baths, steam laundry, and separate cubicles for each lodger. Several visits have been made to these premises. The removal of refuse from the premises is carried out by the Council workmen.

The total number of cubicles in the Hostel is 376.

North Block .....	111 cubicles.
West     ,,     .....	154     ,,
South    ,,     .....	111     ,,



### Cowsheds.

There are only two Cowsheds in the district. The general condition is on the whole satisfactory. These Cowsheds have been regularly cleansed and lime-washed during the year.

### Dairies and Milkshops.

These premises have been frequently inspected, and in a few instances the occupiers have been warned against exposing milk to contamination.

### Housing Conditions.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres) .....	1,354,415
Population (1925) .....	25,980
Number of inhabited houses (1921) .....	4,856
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) .....	5,123
Rateable Value .....	£116,610 0s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£411

#### HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total .....	54
(b) As part of municipal housing scheme .....	54

#### 1.—Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts .....	69
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 .....	6

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	6
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	63
2.—Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	63
3.—Action under Statutory Powers.	
A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit	
(a) By Owners .....	nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close .....	nil.
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied	
(a) By Owners .....	nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .....	nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 (Part 2) and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1925—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders .....	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	6
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit .....	nil.
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	1
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	1

**Summary of Principal Inspections Made.**

Reason of Inspection.	No. of Inspections.
<b>Dwelling-houses.</b>	
General Inspections .....	1412
House Town Planning Act Inspections .....	18
Overcrowding of dwellings .....	100
Dilapidated houses, etc. ....	—
Defective paving and cementing .....	—
Defective yard surfaces .....	6
Lime-washing of passages and staircases .....	72
Dilapidated out-houses .....	20
Keeping of poultry in back-yards .....	36
Dirty houses .....	3
<b>Sanitary Conveniences.</b>	
Conversion of ashpits into water-closets .....	—
Conversion of cell-privies into water-closets .....	19175
Conversion of dry ashpits into Quine Ash receptacles ...	—

### Summary of Principal Inspections Made (continued).

Reason of Inspection	No. of Inspections.
Drainage.	
Choked drains .....	10
Drains tested on complaint .....	—
School drainage .....	—
Defective sink waste pipes, gullies, etc. ....	12
Offensive Deposits.	
Pond and rubbish burning, etc. ....	—
Accumulation of manure, etc. ....	80
Water Supply.	
Absence of water .....	4
Defective fittings .....	4
Registered and Licensed Premises.	
Slaughter houses .....	40
Cow byres .....	8
Milk purveyors .....	150
Common lodging house .....	104
Infectious Diseases.	
Cases removed to hospital .....	120
Visits re disinfection .....	170
Removing bedding to disinfector .....	170
Disinfection of rooms .....	170
Schools specially disinfected .....	12
Scarlet fever .....	76
Diphtheria .....	43
Enteric fever .....	1
Typhus fever .....	—
Measles .....	—
Varicella .....	—
Small-pox (Suspects) .....	—
Puerperal Fever .....	—
Tuberculosis.....	50
Factory and Workshops Act.	
Inspection of workshops .....	14
Workplaces .....	14
Total .....	22094



# Summary of Notices Served for the Abatement of Nuisances.

	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied with.
Privy-ashpits, to substitute water-closets .....	—	—	—
(Section 39, Public Health Amendment Act, 1907)			
Box-closets, to substitute water-closets .....	—	3837	3837
(Section 36, Public Health Act, 1875)			
Ashpits, to substitute ash receptacles .....	—	—	—
(Section 36, Public Health Act, 1875)			
Water-closet fittings (basin, etc., defective) .....	—	—	—
Privy buildings, to repair .....	—	—	—
Privy seats, to repair .....	—	—	—
Privy cleansing doors, to repair .....	—	—	—
Privy overflowing upon back streets .....	—	—	—
Privy buildings, to cleanse .....	—	—	—
Drains defective, to repair or re-construct .....	5	—	5
Sink waste-pipes, to repair and trap .....	6	—	6
Yard surfaces, to repair or relay .....	2	—	2
Yard surfaces, to cleanse .....	113	—	113
Houses dirty, to cleanse .....	1	—	1
Passages and staircases, to cleanse and limewash .....	36	—	36
Roofs, to repair .....	16	—	16
Passages and staircase, to repair .....	6	—	6
Spouting, to repair .....	7	—	7
Floors, to repair and ventilate .....	6	—	6
Ceilings, to repair .....	1	—	1
Walls, damp, to repair .....	4	—	4
Water supply, to provide .....	2	—	2
Overcrowding, to abate .....	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept .....	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations, to remove .....	12	—	12
Manure, to remove periodically .....	40	—	40
Out-houses, to repair .....	10	—	10
Windows, to repair sash cords, etc. ....	8	—	8
Yard walls, to repair .....	4	—	4
Room walls, to repair .....	4	—	4
Scullery sinks, to repair .....	6	—	6
Garbage on streets .....	24	—	24
Limewash, slaughter houses .....	8	—	8
Limewash, cowsheds .....	2	—	2
Ice Cream Premises .....	8	—	8
Scullery Benches to repair .....	2	—	2
Smoky Chimneys .....	3	—	3
Common Lodging Houses .....	4	—	4
Limewashing Outhouses, etc. ....	350	—	350
Miscellaneous .....	—	—	—
Limewash, Lodging Houses .....	4	—	4
House Doors .....	4	—	4
Kitchen Range and Oven .....	5	—	5
Scullery Set Pot .....	3	—	3
Totals .....	706	3837	4543

Factory and Workshops Act.

Factories and Workshops in the district were regularly inspected.

Defects Found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of Cleanliness .....				
Want of Ventilation .....				
Overcrowding .....				
Want of drainage of floors .....				
Other nuisances .....				
Insufficient sanitary accommodation...				
Unsuitable or defective „ ...				
Not separate for sexes „ ...				
Offences under the Factory & Workshop Act :				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses .....				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses as 97 to 100				
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report ...				
Total .....				

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, is in force. The standard of sufficiency and suitability of Sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops is enforced according to Sanitary Accommodation Order of February 4th, 1903.

### Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	Number of Inspecti'ns	Number of Written Notices.	Number of Pro- secutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	7		
Workshops (including Workshop (Laundries)	7		
Workplaces (other than Out- worker Premises included in parts 3 of this report) ...	14		
Total ... ..	28		

### Registered Workshops.

	Number.
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of year	
Workshop Bakehouses .....	2
„ Laundries .....	1
Other Workshops .....	11
	—
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	14

### Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Failures to Affix Abstract of the Factory and Work- shops Act (S. 133) .....	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshops Act (S. 5)—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector .....	nil.

Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M.  
Inspector ..... nil.

Other—

Underground Bakehouses (S. 101)—  
Certificates granted during the year ..... nil.  
In use at the end of the year ..... nil.











